

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please substitute the following listing of claims for the previous listing of claims:

1. (Currently amended) An aerosolization device comprising:
a housing;
a container comprising a reservoir storing a pharmaceutical formulation which comprises a propellant;
a metering valve in communication with the reservoir, the metering valve being moveable into the container to an actuated position when a user applies a force to the container to cause the container to move within the housing, wherein a predetermined amount of the pharmaceutical formulation is released when the metering valve is moved to the actuated position; and
a contact member in the housing, the contact member being moveable between a first position and a second position, wherein a portion of the metering valve is able to contact the contact member when in the first position and is unable to contact the contact member when in the second position.
2. (Original) An aerosolization device according to claim 1 wherein the metering valve may be moved to the actuated position only when the contact member is in the first position.
3. (Original) An aerosolization device according to claim 1 wherein the container and the metering valve are moveable within the housing and wherein when the contact member is in the first position, the metering valve is able to contact the contact member so that it may be moved into the container to the actuated position and when the contact member is in the second position, the metering valve is unable to contact the contact member and cannot be moved into the container to the actuated position.

4. (Original) An aerosolization device according to claim 1 further comprising a controller adapted to selectively control the movement of the contact member.

5. (Currently amended) An aerosolization device comprising:
a housing;
a container comprising a reservoir storing a pharmaceutical formulation which comprises a propellant;
a metering valve in communication with the reservoir, the metering valve being moveable into the container to an actuated position when a user applies a force to the container to cause the container to move within the housing, wherein a predetermined amount of the pharmaceutical formulation is released when the metering valve is moved to the actuated position; and
a contact member in the housing, the contact member having a first configuration and a second configuration, wherein a portion of the metering valve is able to contact the contact member when in the first configuration in a manner which allows the metering valve to be moved to the actuated position, and wherein a portion of the metering valve is able to contact the contact member when in the second configuration in a manner which does not allow the metering valve to be moved to the actuated position.

6. (Original) An aerosolization device according to claim 5 wherein the metering valve may be moved to the actuated position only when the contact member is in the first configuration.

7. (Original) An aerosolization device according to claim 5 wherein the container and the metering valve are moveable within the housing and wherein when the contact member is in the first configuration, the metering valve is able to contact the contact member so that it may be moved into the container to the actuated position and when the contact member is in the second position, the metering valve is able to contact the contact member but cannot be moved into the container to the actuated position.

8. (Original) An aerosolization device according to claim 5 wherein the contact member is rigid in the first configuration and is flexible in the second configuration.

9. (Original) An aerosolization device according to claim 5 further comprising a controller adapted to selectively control the configuration of the contact member.

10. (Currently amended) An aerosolization device comprising:
a housing;
a container comprising a reservoir storing a pharmaceutical formulation which comprises a propellant;
a metering valve in communication with the reservoir, the metering valve being moveable into the container to an actuated position when a user applies a force to the container to cause the container to move within the housing, wherein a predetermined amount of the pharmaceutical formulation is released when the metering valve is moved to the actuated position; and
a contact member in the housing, the contact member being moveable from a first condition to a second condition, wherein when the contact member is in the first condition, the metering valve may contact the contact member so as to allow the metering valve to be moved to the actuated position, and wherein a portion of the metering valve is able to contact the contact member when in the second condition in a manner which does not allow the metering valve to be moved to the actuated position.

11. (Original) An aerosolization device according to claim 10 wherein the first condition is a first position and wherein the second condition is a second position.

12. (Original) An aerosolization device according to claim 11 wherein first position is a position in the housing where the contact member may contact a portion of the metering valve.

13. (Previously presented) An aerosolization device according to claim 10 wherein the first condition is a first configuration and wherein the second condition is a second configuration, and wherein the first configuration is a rigid configuration.

14. (Previously presented) An aerosolization device according to claim 13 wherein the second configuration is a relatively flexible configuration.

15. (Original) An aerosolization device according to claim 10 wherein the metering valve may be moved to the actuated position only when the contact member is in the first condition.

16. (Original) An aerosolization device according to claim 10 wherein the container and the metering valve are moveable within the housing and wherein when the contact member is in the first condition, the metering valve is able to contact the contact member so that it may be moved into the container to the actuated position and when the contact member is in the second condition, the metering valve cannot be moved into the container to the actuated position.

17. (Original) An aerosolization device according to claim 10 further comprising a controller adapted to selectively control the condition of the contact member.

[Claims continued on next page]

18. (Currently amended) An aerosolization device comprising:
a housing;
a container comprising a reservoir storing a pharmaceutical formulation
which comprises a propellant;
a metering valve in communication with the reservoir, the metering valve
being moveable into the container to an actuated position when a user applies a force to
the container to cause the container to move within the housing, wherein a
predetermined amount of the pharmaceutical formulation is released when the metering
valve is moved to the actuated position; and
a contact member in the housing,
wherein the metering valve may be moved to the actuated position when
the metering valve and/or the container is able to contact the contact member and may
not be actuated when the metering valve and/or the container is unable to contact the
contact member.
19. (Currently amended) An aerosolization device according to claim ~~47~~ 18
further comprising a controller adapted to selectively control when the metering valve
may and may not be moved to the actuated position.

[Claims continued on next page]

20. (Currently amended) An aerosolization device comprising:
a housing;
a container comprising a reservoir storing a pharmaceutical formulation
which comprises a propellant;
a metering valve in communication with the reservoir, the metering valve
being moveable into the container to an actuated position when a user applies a force to
the container to cause the container to move within the housing, wherein a
predetermined amount of the pharmaceutical formulation is released when the metering
valve is moved to the actuated position; and
a contact member in the housing,
wherein the metering valve may be moved to the actuated position when
the metering valve and/or the container is able to contact the contact member in a rigid
configuration and may not be actuated when the metering valve and/or the container is
unable to contact the contact member in a rigid configuration.
21. (Original) An aerosolization device according to claim 20 further
comprising a controller adapted to selectively control when the metering valve may and
may not be moved to the actuated position.

[Claims continued on next page]

22. (Currently amended) A method of controlling the operation of an aerosolization device, the aerosolization device comprising a container comprising a reservoir storing a pharmaceutical formulation which comprises a propellant, and the aerosolization device comprising a metering valve in communication with the reservoir, the metering valve being moveable into the container to an actuated position when a user applies a force to the container to cause the container to move, wherein a predetermined amount of the pharmaceutical formulation is released when the metering valve is moved to the actuated position, the method comprising:

positioning a contact member in a first position where the contact member may contact the metering valve and/or the container to allow the metering valve to be moved to the actuated position; and

positioning the contact member in a second position where the metering valve may not be moved to the actuated position.

23. (Original) A method according to claim 22 wherein the second position is a position where the contact member may not be contacted by the metering valve or the container.

24. (Original) A method according to claim 22 comprising returning the contact member to the first position after a condition is met.

25. (Original) A method according to claim 24 wherein the condition is the passage of a predetermined amount of time.

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26. (Currently amended) A method of controlling the operation of an aerosolization device, the aerosolization device comprising a container comprising a reservoir storing a pharmaceutical formulation which comprises a propellant, and the aerosolization device comprising a metering valve in communication with the reservoir, the metering valve being moveable into the container to an actuated position when a user applies a force to the container to cause the container to move, wherein a predetermined amount of the pharmaceutical formulation is released when the metering valve is moved to the actuated position, the method comprising:

configuring a contact member in a first configuration wherein the contact member may contact the metering valve to allow the metering valve to be moved to the actuated position; and

configuring the contact member in a second configuration wherein the metering valve may contact the contact member but may not be moved to the actuated position.

27. (Original) A method according to claim 26 wherein the first configuration is a rigid configuration.

28. (Original) A method according to claim 26 wherein the second configuration is a flexible configuration.

29. (Original) A method according to claim 26 comprising returning the contact member to the first configuration after a condition is met.

30. (Original) A method according to claim 29 wherein the condition is the passage of a predetermined amount of time.

31. (New) An aerosolization device according to claim 1 wherein the container moves within the housing when a force is applied by the user directly to a surface of the container.

32. (New) An aerosolization device according to claim 1 wherein the container moves within the housing when a force is applied to an intermediate member.

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